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11 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman Lucien Nedzi Re House
Foreign Affairs Committee Jurisdiction over
"Intelligence Activities Relating to Foreign Policy"

1. I met with Chairman Lucien Nedzi, Intelligence Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee, today for the purpose of reviewing with him his understanding of the agreement that was reached between Dr. Kissinger, Mr. Colby and the leadership of the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees for providing the Foreign Affairs Committee with information relating to covert activities having an impact on foreign policy. I said we had studied the wording of the provisions in the Hansen report which were agreed to on the House floor as well as the Ryan amendment to the Foreign Aid bill and thought it wise to consult with him before the upcoming recess in view of the broad language that was adopted.

2. Chairman Nedzi said it was his opinion that the broader the language the better it would be. He said the understanding which he has with the leadership of the Foreign Affairs Committee is that this language will be interpreted in accordance with the agreement reached at the meeting of the principals involved on 25 September. He does not think the Director should brief the Foreign Affairs Committee representatives on all of the Agency's covert activities--only those which have an impact on foreign policy. When I said this could cover an awful lot of ground and mentioned as an example, he amended his statement to covering covert activities in foreign countries (i.e. political and paramilitary in nature) which were most likely to have an impact on foreign policy.

3. Mr. Nedzi said he thought the Director should construe the terms of reference narrowly and not ask for definition from the Foreign Affairs Committee. If he should ask for that definition, of course, they would go

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for the broadest interpretation. But he cited the fact that Representative Dante Fascell said the Committee didn't want to know about all of the Agency's covert activities--only those with foreign policy ramifications. He emphasized, however, that this did not mean the Director should hold back anything within the defined area. Mr. Nedzi quoted Dr. Kissinger as saying that only about 40% of the 40 Committee approvals fell into the category requiring reporting to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

4. When I briefed Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, later on my meeting with Mr. Nedzi, he summed it up well by saying he thought we should cover those covert activities within the agreed area of sufficient severity to warrant 40 Committee approval but that did not mean we would brief the Foreign Affairs Committee on all 40 Committee programs.

5. Chairman Nedzi agreed that when the Director has his first meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee representatives, he should review the pertinent 40 Committee programs now in existence in much the same way he briefed the CIA Subcommittees.

6. I asked Mr. Nedzi for his opinion of the Ryan amendment and he said he had no difficulty with it. He feels it is consistent with the agreement reached by the principals involved. I raised the question of the appropriateness of placing this agreement in the Foreign Aid bill and also indicated the Administration might have some difficulty with having this agreement made a matter of law rather than House rules. Mr. Nedzi said that is the Administration's problem but he added he realized in this respect we are a part of the Administration.

7. I touched on the potentially sensitive issue of who released the information to the press on the 25 September meeting. Mr. Nedzi confirmed the position that I had taken with Marian Czarnecki, House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, on this issue which was that Mr. Nedzi only commented on the agreement after the fact of its existence had been released. Mr. Nedzi said he had been in close contact with Chairman Morgan on this subject and talked with the press on it only after Morgan told him he had released the information for publication.

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8. I took this opportunity to alert the Chairman to the negotiations we were having with the House Judiciary Committee staff regarding their inquiry into the qualifications of Nelson Rockefeller.

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